



# DOVER

Norfolk County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Dover is an affluent suburban community set between the western and southwestern axis of metropolitan Boston expansion. Incorporated in 1784, Dover relied on agriculture and grazing as the basis for its colonial economy although the ruggedness of its terrain plus the relative lack of water power limited its early growth. The damming of the Charles River in the late 18th century provided some power and allowed the development of mills which made nails and rolled iron, but the future of the community was not industrial. By the late 19th century, Dover was a firmly suburban community some of whose residents had assembled large country estates. Wealthy Bostonians created at least 18 estates between 1901 and 1914 alone, some of them as large as 300-400 acres. Modern Dover is a residential community still retaining much semi-rural character although there has been some development and subdividing of estate lands.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Medfield and Walpole on the south, Sherborn on the west, Natick on the northwest, Wellesley and Needham on the north, and Westwood on the east. Dover is 16 miles southwest of Boston and 197 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 15.41 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 15.33 sq. miles

**Population:** 4,915

**Density:** 321 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Blue Hill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....49.0"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Medfield, Natick, Norwood, Newton

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 785-0054

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen  
Executive Assistant  
Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1836

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	3,408		
Democrats	476	14.0	%
Republicans	1,162	34.1	%
Other parties	1	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,769	51.9	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Dover town, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	5,558	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	5,558	100.0
Male.....	2,711	48.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	66	1.2
Female.....	2,847	51.2	Mexican.....	7	0.1
Under 5 years.....	422	7.6	Puerto Rican.....	10	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	562	10.1	Cuban.....	8	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	511	9.2	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	41	0.7
15 to 19 years.....	343	6.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	5,492	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	121	2.2	White alone.....	5,232	94.1
25 to 34 years.....	346	6.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	984	17.7	Total population.....	5,558	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,028	18.5	In households.....	5,558	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	357	6.4	Householder.....	1,849	33.3
60 to 64 years.....	260	4.7	Spouse.....	1,423	25.6
65 to 74 years.....	388	7.0	Child.....	2,061	37.1
75 to 84 years.....	186	3.3	Own child under 18 years.....	1,724	31.0
85 years and over.....	50	0.9	Other relatives.....	106	1.9
Median age (years).....	40.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	20	0.4
18 years and over.....	3,804	68.4	Nonrelatives.....	119	2.1
Male.....	1,831	32.9	Unmarried partner.....	39	0.7
Female.....	1,973	35.5	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	3,700	66.6	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	775	13.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	624	11.2	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	307	5.5	Total households.....	1,849	100.0
Female.....	317	5.7	Family households (families).....	1,568	84.8
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	850	46.0
One race.....	5,521	99.3	Married-couple family.....	1,423	77.0
White.....	5,290	95.2	With own children under 18 years.....	782	42.3
Black or African American.....	23	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	102	5.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	2	-	With own children under 18 years.....	47	2.5
Asian.....	202	3.6	Nonfamily households.....	281	15.2
Asian Indian.....	38	0.7	Householder living alone.....	236	12.8
Chinese.....	100	1.8	Householder 65 years and over.....	109	5.9
Filipino.....	2	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	865	46.8
Japanese.....	6	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	436	23.6
Korean.....	48	0.9	Average household size.....	3.01	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.29	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	8	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	1,884	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,849	98.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	35	1.9
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	10	0.5
Some other race.....	3	0.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	37	0.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.1	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	1,849	100.0
White.....	5,323	95.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,755	94.9
Black or African American.....	29	0.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	94	5.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	2	-	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.05	(X)
Asian.....	228	4.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.21	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	5	0.1			
Some other race.....	8	0.1			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Dover is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

No numbered highways pass through the town of Dover, but access to nearby State Routes 128 (also I-95), 109, and 135 is available from the town's network of connecting roads.

### Rail

Commuter rail service is available to Back Bay Station and South Station, Boston, on the Needham Heights Line from several points in Needham. It is also available on the Providence Line from the Route 128 Station and on the Forge Park-495 Line from the Dedham Corporation Center. Travel time from Needham Junction to Back Bay Station: 27-30 min., 170 MBTA parking spaces.

### Bus

Dover is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA). It does not receive fixed bus route or paratransit services.

### Other

The Norwood Memorial Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,001'x 150' and 4,007'x 150'. Instrument approach available: Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Sawin Memorial Building

Dedham Street

(617) 785-1832

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.